

## Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EA-11 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 CU-04 RSR-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /162 W

----- 043939

R 091022Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 391

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL TAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6420

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, PK, BG

SUBJ: REPATRIATION OF BENGALLEES AND SOME PAKISTANIS

REF: ISLAMABAD 5772, 6209; KATHMANDU 3018 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN MOVE TERMED "UNILATERAL GESTURE" OF HUMANITARIAN GOOD WILL, GOP PLANS BEGIN BY MID-AUGUST MOVEMENT OF 5,000 BENGALLEES TO BANGLADESH BY AIR, WITH ABOUT EQUAL NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS STRANDED IN NEPAL TO BE BROUGHT BACK ON RETURN FLIGHTS. ICRC HAS ARRANGED SELECTION OF BENGALLEES AND CLEARANCE OF GOP AND BDG, WHILE UNHCR WILL ARRANGE AND FUND TRANSPORTATION. ALLEGEDLY, OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION FROM GOI HAS BEEN OBTAINED. END SUMMARY.

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1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR REPATRIATION AND "EAST PAKISTANIS"

WAHEED TOLD EMBOFFS AUGUST 8 THAT THE GOP WAS MOVING AHEAD TO REPATRIATE TO DACCA 5,000 NON-OFFICIAL BENGALLEES BEGINNING MID-MONTH TO IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S JULY 11 ANNOUNCEMENT OF "UNILATERAL GESTURE" OF HUMANITARIAN GOOD WILL. RETURN FLIGHTS WILL BRING BACK APPROXIMATELY EQUAL NUMBER OF PAKISTAN CITIZEN REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH STRANDED IN NEPAL. (GOP IS DISCLAIMING ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMAINING 5,000 REFUGEES FROM BD NOW IN NEPAL.) IT WAS EARLIER PLANNED TO BRING BACK GOP-CLEARED PAKISTANIS FROM BANGLADESH BUT, HWAHEED ALLEGED, BDG INSISTED ON THEIR OWN LIST WHICH GOP FOUND WAS MADE UP OF "BIHARIS" WHO WERE UNACCEPTABLE. PRESENT ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, HAS RECEIVED INDIAN PERMISSION FOR OVERFLIGHT OF INDIAN TERRITORY SO THAT LONGER ROUTE THROUGH BANGKOK USED IN EARLIER REPATRIATION FLIGHTS FROM KATHMANDU CAN BE AVOIDED.

2. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MARTIN CONFIRMED THAT UNHCR WAS MAKING TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON TWO ROUND-TRIP FLIGHTS DAILY (125 PERSONS PER TRIP) BEGINNING ABOUT AUGUST 16 FOR 20 DAYS. OF TOTAL 15,000 BENGALLEES REGISTERED FOR REPATRIATION WITH ICRC, GOP HAS GIVEN CLEARANCE TO ABOUT 14,000, OF WHOM LITTLE OVER 11,000 HAVE RECEIVED BDG CLEARANCE. FOR CURRENT REPATRIATION ICRC HAS GIVEN PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES, BROKEN FAMILIES AND DESTITUTES IN PESHAWAR-RAWALPINDI-LAHORE AREA, AMOUNTING TO JUST UNDER 1,000; IN KARACHI AREA, MORE NARROW CRITERIA WILL HAVE TO BE SET TO SELECT ADDITIONAL 4,000 - DESTITUTE WILL PROBABLY BE THOSE LIVING IN WORST SLUM CONDITIONS. GOP IS STILL UNWILLING TO GRANT INDIVIDUAL CLEARANCES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR OWN FUNDS, MARTIN SAID, BUT SOME WILL QUALIFY UNDER ICRC CRITERIA FOR GROUP MOVE.

3. MARTIN POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT REPATRIATION OPERATION WILL OVERLAP DELHI NEGOTIATIONS ON EXCHANGE OF POWS, BENGALLEES AND BIHARIS. IN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC MOOD HE LOOKED FORWARD TO INCREASED TEMPO OF REPATRIATIONS AND CONTINUED ICRC INVOLVEMENT. LARGESCALE (IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS) MOVEMENT OF PERSONS WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRE DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS. HE DOUBTED UNHCR WOULD WANT TO TACKLE COSTS OF SUCH TRANSPORTATION. AND, INITIAL BIDS FROM COMMERCIAL SHIPPING COMPANIES INDICATE THAT IT IS CHEAPER TO FLY.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS MERELY IMPLEMENTS EARLIER BHUTTO GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT COMPLICATED MODALITIES APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT

BETWEEN GOP AND BDG THOUGH GOOD OFFICES OF ICRC  
AND UNHCR.  
SOBER

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